

CDPH Climate and Health Team Short Reports

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Public Health Workgroup Meeting
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Release of *Preparing for Extreme Heat in California: Guidance and Recommendations*

- Multi-agency workgroup of Public Health Workgroup led by CDPH and Cal EPA
- Provides Guidance and Recommendations for state agencies to help reduce the health risks of climate-related extreme heat events and promoting heat resilience through a variety of strategies.
- Recommendation Section – Identifies lead state agencies and departments responsible for further review, consultation, identification of resources and implementation of key actions. Also identifies key stakeholders for engagement and further discussion of strategies.

Section 1: Heat Resilient and Cooler Communities

- Adopt building, land use and design elements that promote cooling
- Examine and expand use of cool or sustainable surface materials and strategies
- Examine and expand use of porous pavements
- Promote and expand urban greening and use of green infrastructure

Section II: Enhance Preparedness and Response to Extreme Heat Events

- Review existing state hazard mitigation, heat contingency and other state planning documents to incorporate climate and heat projections
- Improve Heat Warning systems
- Improve heat resilience for vulnerable populations
- Protect energy systems
- Expand energy assurance programs
- Review cooling strategies for indoor environments such as air conditioning and alternatives

Section III: Public Health and Health Care Sector Readiness

- Increase health care sector preparedness and resilience
- Improve heat illness and death surveillance activities

Section IV: Protect Workers at Risk of Extreme Heat

- Evaluate current Cal OSHA Heat Standard
- Promote greater coordination to convey necessary worker protection measures
- Augment employer and worker training in key industries with heat exposure
- Evaluate heat mitigation and protection measures-engineering, administration controls and the need for new methods

Section V: Research Needs

- Study characteristics of heat resilience for vulnerable populations and communities
- ID heat adaptation strategies with health co-benefits
- Study heat acclimatization in changing climate
- Evaluate cooling strategies beyond air conditioning

Section V: Research Needs (cont'd)

- Evaluate changing occupational health risks and strategies to reduce risk
- → Assess Urban Heat Island effects for California cities to provide baseline for reduction efforts (underway at Cal EPA per AB 296)
- Research costs and benefits of higher albedo pavement
- Evaluate effectiveness of early heat warning systems for high risk workers
- Perform high resolution tree canopy analysis of state urban areas

CDPH's Adaptation Grant: Building Resilience to Climate Effects (BRACE)

- Grantee meeting and climate researcher and practitioner summit Jan. 2013
- Administrative challenges and hiring grant personnel
- Collaboration with Local Government Commission (webinar, Sacramento, LA presentations)
- Various presentations on linking climate adaptation and public health preparedness

Short Reports- Work in Progress

- Focus Groups Exploring public knowledge and attitudes on climate change as a public health issue
- on Climate and Health
 - 6 Focus groups in 3 regions of the state (LA, Santa Clara, Fresno) in English and Spanish with “lay community health leaders”
 - Results will be used to develop communication and messaging strategies
- CAT Research Workgroup: Public Health Priorities
 - Community and regional level (downscaled) assessment of climate change risks and impacts, resilience and adaptive capacity, vulnerability, health impacts, economic impacts and co-benefits
 - Heat warning systems and the NWS
 - Health risks of wildfire
 - Agriculture, food supply/price and food security
 - Risk communication
 - Occupational risks
- ITHIM
 - Statewide calibration project for MPOs, county health departments, and other potential users

Short Reports: Heat and Health Research Report

- Dr. Dan Smith, CDPH Environmental Health Investigations Branch